

common task Vain dieam What met
 them was a new
 and insistent appeal for co-operation, even for
 sacrifice

The 1929 Election made Labour, with two
 hundred and
 fifty M P 's, the strongest single party, although
 the shrunken
 Liberal remnant still held the balance in the
 House of

Commons, and, in the Lords, the Conservative
 preponder-
 ance was, of course, overwhelming Mr
 MacDonald, in

forming his second Government, was faced
 afresh with the
 difficulty arising out of the constitutional
 practice according
 to which a certain number of Secretaries of
 State must be

in the Upper House He was unwilling to
 repeat the 1924
 experiment of relying, in part, on outsiders
 To Sidney

Webb he put up a very strong appeal, on both
 personal and

public grounds He knew that he
 had in his mind
 withdrawn from politics, and had taken definite
 and decisive

steps to that end, was not he himself now M P
 for Seaham,

in his place? Webb, so he has said, is the
 only associate

who has never at any stage asked him for a job
 of any kind

There was no question now, of his wanting one,
 the question

was—Could he overcome his strong
 disinclination for any
 further political effort? It was put to him,
 and with force,

that his help was required, both in the
 Cabinet and as a

Minister Would he, in fact, take on the
 onerous task of

becoming Secretary of State for the
 Colonies, and, in
 addition, make the sacrifice of views he was
 known to hold

about peerages, and go up to the Lords?

There, the hours

would be far less strenuous, the work itself

would be mainly
administrative

Much against his inclinations, and simply
and solely
out of his strong sense of public duty, he
finally agreed
He made perhaps the biggest sacrifice of his
career He
became Baron Passfield For the first time in
their long
association, his wife refused fully to share the
burden with
him. She did, nobly, do her part in the, to her,
supremely
distasteful social sphere The social burden
falling on the